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HEAD-STARTED KEMP'S RIDLEY RECAPTURED IN CARIBBEAN

Between 12-16 January 1990, a Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kemp) with tag number K1542 was captured in a tangle net set to capture green turtles (Chelonia mydas) near Miskito Cay, Nicaragua, by Sr. Gaston Aleman of Daura, Nicaragua. In this region, turtle nets are set over areas of mixed bottom types of sea grasses, coral reefs, and/or rocks. The turtle was killed and the tag was returned to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research. No size measurements were recorded at capture. Ridley #K1542 was released off northern Padre Island, Texas, on 2 June 1981 with the 1980 year-class of ridleys from the head-start program at the National Marine Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory. It was 11 months old, weighed 1.1 kg, and had a straight carapace length and width of 18.2 cm and 16.6 cm, respectively, when released.

The return is noteworthy for two reasons. First, at 103 months (8.6 yr), this is the longest interval between release and recapture for a head-started Kemp's ridley and the tag, a 681-style monel tag, was still in good condition. Second, except for an unconfirmed report of a nesting Kemp's ridley from Colombia, there are no Kemp's ridley records from the Caribbean (Ross et al. 1989). The Colombian report by Chavez and Kaufman (1974) is disputed by Pritchard and Trebbau (1984) who believe the turtle to have been a misidentified olive ridley (L. olivacea) tagged in the Guianas. Of the many thousands of sea turtles captured on the Miskito Bank of Nicaragua, no Kemp's ridley has been previously reported. Whether this turtle would ever have returned north to the natural geographic range of the species and successfully reproduced must remain a question.

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STRANDED JUVENILE LOGGERHEADS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

An unusually high number of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) appeared on the coasts of the British Isles in the early part of 1990 (Penhallurick 1991). Sightings of dead animals were difficult to verify, but 11 live loggerhead turtles were found at beaches on the south and west coasts of Ireland and England between January and March (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Map showing sites where loggerhead sea turtles stranded in the United Kingdom during 1990. Strandings identified by turtle code as in Table 1.